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Page 2

5. (amended) An igniter of claim 1 wherein the three zones differ in operational temperature during use of the igniter.

7. (amended) An igniter element of claim 1 wherein the booster operational temperature is about 200°C higher than the operational temperature of the conductive zone.

9. (amended) An igniter element of claim 1 wherein the room temperature resistivance of the conductor zone is less than about 50 percent of the room temperature resistivance of the booster zone.

10. (amended) An igniter element of claim 1 wherein the room temperature resistivance of the booster zone is less than about 70 percent of the room temperature resistivance of the hot zone.

11. (amended) An igniter element of claim 1 wherein the operational temperature resistivity of the booster zone is at least about 50 percent greater than the operational temperature resistivity of the hot zone.

14. (amended) A method of igniting gaseous fuel, comprising applying an electric current across an igniter an igniter of claim 1.

17. (amended) A heating apparatus comprising an igniter of claim 1.

Please add the following new claims.

19. The igniter clement of claim 1 wherein the hot zone path length is from 0.2 to 2 cm.